

DESTINATIONS

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Put some spring in your step with a girlfriends' getaway to Greenville

By Maggie Scruggs
Fast Copy News Service

Take a break from reality with some of the people that love you the most: your girlfriends.

Greenville, S.C., is a great option for a girls' weekend getaway, whether you want to hop on a short flight or take a road trip from Atlanta.

You can do brunch, enjoy wine tastings, stroll Main Street with its twinkling lights, and shop for handmade goods, clothing and unique experiences in its stores, such as a "Denim Party" in Beija-Flor, a designer jeans boutique.

"It's fun to get girls together - we have wine and cheese and play music. It gives you that opportunity to try something different," said Kathy Moca, who with her daughter, Emilie Whitaker, founded Beija-Flor Jeans, whose flagship store is in Greenville.

Greenville was named one of the "Top 16 South's Best Girlfriend Getaways" by Southern Living and one of the "Top 10 Under-the-Radar Southern Cities for Girlfriend Getaways" by Country Living. Start planning your girlfriend getaway with these must-do activities - and the planner in your group will be happy to know that many of these spots take reservations.

Do
Get creative as a group and even combine it with a happy hour, or spend your day relaxing with massages, yoga and wine.

Frost & Sip at Greenville's Cakes by U is touted as the country's first decorate-your-own cake and BYOB experience. It hosts Girl Night Out events, starting at \$25 depending on the size of the cake, as well as celebrations such as bridal and baby showers. 637 Congaree Road, Suite A, Greenville, S.C. 29607, 864-322-3356, www.cakesbyu.com

Achieve aromatic bliss making your own soy candle masterpiece at Magnolia Scents by Design. Reserve a private class online for seven to 10 people, like your bridesmaids or college friends. Magnolia Scents also sells locally made lotion, soap and essential oils. 209 N. Main St., Greenville, S.C. 29601, 864-520-2511, www.magnoliascents.com

Unwin(e)d your night at Northampton Wine + Dine, which has wine tastings on Friday nights for \$30, featuring a type or region, and hosts wine dinners featuring certain vineyards. Reserve ahead of time online. 211A E. Broad St., Greenville, S.C. 29601, 864-271-3919, www.northamptonwine-anddine.com

Take some "me time" and enjoy a River Relaxation Signature Massage with warm stones and deep tissue therapy at River Falls Spa. Or splurge on your skin with the Chocolate Truffle Body Treatment that's rich with antioxidants. 130 S. Main St., Greenville, S.C. 29601, 864-240-2136, www.riverfallspa.com

Whatever activity you choose, fuel up at one of Greenville's eateries focused on fresh local fare. At Swamp Rabbit Cafe & Grocery, options include artisan wood-fired pizzas topped with Clemson blue cheese and roasted organic beets. Enjoy outdoor seating along the Greenville Health System (GHS) Swamp Rabbit Trail; cooking classes and community events also are offered. 205 Cedar Lane Road, Greenville, S.C. 29611, 864-255-3385, www.swamprabbitcafe.com



RiverPlace and the Peace Center offer so much to do, whether you're in the mood for shopping or a cocktail, or perhaps a great night of theater. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

NEED SOME IDEAS? WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

■ Pick up all the makings of a delicious picnic and head to Falls Park on the Reedy (www.fallspark.com), a 32-acre nature lovers and gardener's paradise where you can feel the sun on your face and smell the gorgeous flowers. Caviar & Bananas (www.caviarandbananas.com), a gourmet market and cafe, will provide you with a basket prepared with a variety of meat, cheese and jam.
■ Feel the wind in your face as you ride a bike on the GHS

Swamp Rabbit Trail (www.greenvillerec.com/ghs-swamp-rabbit-trail), which reused a historic rail bed to provide a way for residents and guests to enjoy the city.
■ Take a hike at one of three state parks (www.southcarolinaparks.com) and relax while listening to nature's soundtrack. Caesars Head has over 60 miles of hiking trails and five waterfalls. Take a connecting trail between Caesars Head to Jones Gap State Park. Swim at Paris

Mountain State Park or hike and bike its 15 miles of trails.
■ Sit outside and enjoy a cup of Nutella gelato (yum!) at the Luna Rosa Gelato Café (www.lunarosagelato.com), right off Main Street. Ice cream, frozen yogurt or gelato just scream warmer weather.
■ Visit the TD Saturday Market (www.saturdaymarketlive.com), a downtown Greenville farmers' market with in-season produce, fresh baked muffins and other goods on Saturdays from May through October.

For an afternoon activity, visit Aerie Lane, which opened in fall 2017 in nearby Greer. Take a DIY class and you'll make a personalized souvenir, such as a wooden farmhouse sign for your front porch. The business started with a love for creating, and more importantly, giving people a place to come together, owner Angie Bryant says. Reserve a private class (minimum eight gals) or join a community class and meet other fun-loving ladies. You can bring your own beer or wine and sip while you craft. 117 S. Main St., Greer, S.C. 29650, 864-787-1756, www.greer.aerielane.com

Relax your body and mind (and have some laughs) at Split Creek Farm, where you can perfect your downward facing dog with a goat on your back at goat yoga, such as on Mother's Day. If you're headed back to Atlanta, the farm's location in Anderson - about 35 miles south of downtown Greenville - may be a great place to stop on the journey home. 3806 Centerville Road, Anderson, S.C. 29625, 864-287-3921, www.splitcreek.com

Shop
Pedal Chic is the first cycling shop in North America geared toward women, says owner Robin Bylenga. Rent a bike and spin along the 21-mile Greenville Health System (GHS) Swamp Rabbit Trail, a multi-use trail with a nearby entry point. Pedal Chic takes bike

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If you're feeling outdoorsy, visit Caesars Head state park and enjoy more than 60 miles of hiking trails and five waterfalls.



IFYOUGO

Downtown Greenville is two to two-and-a-half hours from Atlanta, easily accessible from I-85. Be sure to stop by the VisitGreenvilleSC

Visitor Center: 206 S. Main St., Greenville, S.C. 29601
Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays; noon-4 p.m. Sundays
800-717-0023; www.VisitGreenvilleSC.com @Greenville_SC

WHERE TO STAY

Crowne Plaza Greenville: Located off the I-385 inner loop, 8 miles from Greenville-Spartanburg Airport (GSP) and just a few minutes from downtown Greenville's entertainment, shopping and dining district. It's the national winner of Crowne Plaza Hotel's Quality Excellence Award and houses a Ruth's Chris Steak House. 851 Congaree Road, Greenville, S.C. 29607 864-297-6300 www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels, @CrownePlaza

Hampton Inn Greenville/I-385 Haywood Mall: Located off I-385 next to the Haywood Mall, with free breakfast. 255 Congaree Road, Greenville, S.C. 29607 864-516-2400 www.hamptoninn3.hilton.com, @HamptonI385

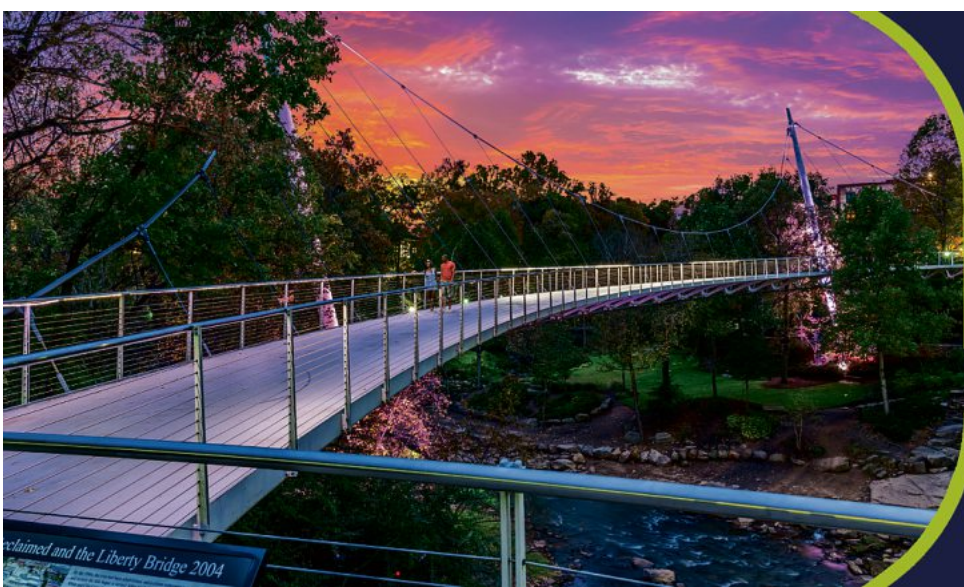
Hampton Inn Greenville/Travelers Rest: Located along the GHS Swamp Rabbit Trail, 2 miles from Furman University and Paris Mountain State Park. Hot breakfast, free Wi-Fi and a gym are included. 593 Roe Center Court, Travelers Rest, S.C. 29690 864-834-5550 www.hamptoninn3.hilton.com, @HamptonByHilton

Hilton Garden Inn Greenville: The Shops at Greenridge and The Point, which features both retail and restaurants, are nearby. 108 Carolina Point Parkway, Greenville, S.C. 29607 864-284-0111 www.hiltongardeninn.com, @HiltonGardenInn

Fairfield Inn Greenville-Spartanburg Airport: Breakfast is free and the hotel is near several restaurants, in addition to the airport. 48 Fisherman Lane, Greenville, S.C. 29615 864-234-9916 www.marriott.com, @FairfieldHotels

Sleep Inn TD Convention Center: The closest hotel to the convention center, it's also about 3 miles from the Peace Center and Bon Secours Wellness Arena. 231 N. Pleasantburg Drive, Greenville, S.C. 29607 864-240-2006 www.choicehotels.com @ChoiceHotels

Did someone say Nutella? Stop by Luna Rosa Gelato Café just off Main Street for an indulgent and cooling treat.



"#3 Top Small City in the US."

- Condé Nast Traveler Readers Choice Awards

yeah, that greenville
visitgreenvillesc.com

DESTINATIONS

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Disney plans South African safari

Adventures by Disney is now booking a South African safari that features famed Imagineer Joe Rohde and Dr. Mark Penning, vice president of animals, science and environment for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts, as traveling companions.

The \$11,499-per-person, adults-only trip, set for late this year, is tied to the 20th anniversary of Disney's Ani-

mal Kingdom theme park. Disney World's youngest park marked its 20th year in April.

Rohde, one of the masterminds behind Animal Kingdom, has used his experiences as a world traveler to form attractions at Disney.

Adventures by Disney is a travel-oriented branch of Walt Disney Co.

The South African safari, which lasts 10 days and nine nights, includes sketching sessions with Rohde, wildlife and culture talks by Pen-

ning, a South African wine tasting, visits to an elephant park, Monkeyland Primate Sanctuary, Boulder Beach (home of African penguins), Table Mountain and the Cape of Good Hope.

For more information or to make reservation, call 800-543-0865 or a travel agent.

ORLANDO SENTINEL

Amtrak adding new dining options

As a way to improve din-

ing options for sleeping car customers, Amtrak is offering contemporary and fresh dining choices that can be delivered to the bedrooms or roomettes of passengers.

Starting June 1, passengers on the Amtrak's Capitol Limited and Lake Shore Limited trains will be able to enjoy hand-crafted meals that can be delivered to their rooms or eaten in a private cafe or lounge car.

For lunch or dinner, passengers traveling in an

Amtrak sleeping car will have several entree options, including chilled beef tenderloin, vegan wrap, chicken caesar salad or Turkey club sandwiches.

As for the early birds, breakfast will feature assorted pieces of bread with butter, cream cheese and strawberry jam, as well as Greek yogurt and a sliced seasonal fresh fruit plate.

All meals will be included in the price of a sleeping car ticket, and delivered to the trains just prior to origina-

tion, eliminating the need for onboard preparation. Passengers will also receive unlimited soft drinks, a free serving of beer, wine or a mixed-drink and an amenity kit.

The Capitol Limited operates daily between Washington, D.C., and Chicago, via Pittsburgh and Cleveland.

The Lake Shore Limited typically operates daily between Chicago and New York, with a section to and from Boston.

TRAVELPULSE

Greenville

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outfitting to a different level with trendy apparel even if "you're not a spandex kind of girl," said Bylenga, who also offers packages for group events. 250 RiverPlace, Suite B, Greenville, S.C. 29601, 864-242-2442, www.pedalchic.com

At Beija-Flor Jeans, which O, The Oprah Magazine called "The World's Best Jeans," shop or have a "Denim Party" with a group of five to 30 women. Schedule online or via phone. 618 S. Main St., Greenville, S.C. 29601, 864-373-9497, www.beijaflorjeans.com

More shopping options include Anthropologie on Main Street and boutiques such as Monkee's of the West End, Splash on Main, Samantha Grace Designs, The Pink Azalea, Traveling Chic Boutique, J. Britt Boutique, and Cone & Coleman Collection.

See

At the Peace Center, catch a traveling production of Broadway shows, as the 2018-2019 season's lineup includes "Hamilton," "A Play that Goes Wrong" and "Anastasia," among others. Those shows join concerts, performances, such as the ballet, and kids' events at the performing arts venue. 300 S Main St., Greenville, S.C. 29601, 864-467-3000, www.peacecenter.org

Drink

Kick off the weekend or enjoy a final toast at Greenville's bars, lounges and restaurants, some of which offer stunning city views.

For a sophisticated, yet laid-back lounge with plenty of outdoor seating overlooking downtown, head to SIP Whiskey & Wine Bar for crafted cocktails, wine and whiskey with small plates like pimento cheese and bruschetta.

Start your weekend early with Thursday night sunset sessions or end the trip with stretch-n-sip yoga and drinks for \$10 at 11 a.m. Sun-

days. 103 N. Main St. #400, Greenville, S.C. 29601, 864-552-1916, www.sipgvl.com

Keep the party going at UP on the Roof atop the Embassy Suites at RiverPlace in downtown Greenville.

Grab brunch, lunch or dinner while enjoying views of the Reedy River and Blue Ridge Mountains. Don't pass up the rooftop bar with fantastic nighttime views or for bottomless mimosas on Sundays. 250 RiverPlace, Greenville, S.C. 29601 864-242-4000, www.eatupdrinkup.net

Eat

Greenville's dining options range from buzzy chef-driven restaurants to quaint cafes.

Husk is one of downtown Greenville's newest restaurants, which opened in late 2017 with a focus on fresh ingredients and deep flavors. Executive chef Sean Brock, a James Beard and Emmy award winner, and his team serve Upstate South Carolina fare, such as Sassafras Glazed Pork Ribs with Pickled Peaches. Reserve online or call ahead. 722 S. Main St., Greenville, S.C. 29601, 864-627-0404, www.husk-

greenville.com

Have a casual meal with the girls at Brick Street Café and linger over dessert. Brick Street Café earns raves for its cakes, such as sweet potato cake and coconut cake. Brick Street can host special events or accommodate groups, especially if your friend brings a friend on your girlfriend getaway; reservations are accepted. 315 Augusta St., Greenville, S.C. 29601, 864-421-0111, www.brickstreetcafe.net

Mary's at Falls Cottage, open since 2004, is a go-to spot for a quaint and relaxing ladies lunch. Owner Mary Jones describes the menu as "eclectic and contemporary." Dine in a two-story stucco and brick house that dates to the 1890s and was renovated in 1972, and enjoy dishes such as chicken, apple and goat cheese salad. Mary's also hosts parties, events and weddings. 615 S. Main St., Greenville, S.C. 29601, 864-298-0005, www.fallscottage.com

Spring into spring with simple life pleasures

Don't miss out on the gorgeous and accessible outdoor destinations in the area. If yoga isn't in your repertoire, take a walk or hike in the nearby state parks or enjoy a sunny spot on the river.



Emilie Whitaker and her mother, Kathy Moca, founded Beija-Flor Jeans, whose flagship store is in Greenville. Consider taking your girlfriends for a Denim Party, complete with wine, cheese and music. CONTRIBUTED

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\$209/MO

Stock# 331096 MSRP \$23,650
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lease a 2018 Tucson 2.0 FWD Se for \$199 per month for 36 months with \$2,999 due at lease signing. 12k miles p/yr. Closed end lease (Model # 84412145) to well-qualified lessees approved by HMF. not all lessees will qualify. includes \$199 first payment & no security deposit. 0% APR with approved credit. \$2,500 Retail Bonus Cash available on all 2018 Hyundai Tucson 2.0 FWD Se purchased from dealer stock. all offers with approved credit & cannot be combined. excludes tax, title, tax and \$650 Dealer Doc Fee. See dealer for details.

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\$17,645

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\$5,500 OFF

• Basic warranty: 60 months/60,000miles
• Roadside assistance coverage: 60months/unlimited distance
• Powertrain warranty: 120 months/100,000miles
• Corrosion perforation warranty: 84 months/ unlimited distance.

2018 Hyundai Elantra

\$14,635

Stock# 332058 MSRP \$19,135
HYUNDAI Assurance
\$4500.00 OFF

• Basic warranty: 60 months/60,000miles
• Roadside assistance coverage: 60months/unlimited distance
• Powertrain warranty: 120 months/100,000miles
• Corrosion perforation warranty: 84 months/ unlimited distance.

2018 Hyundai Santa Fe Sport

\$20,425

Stock# 331754 MSRP \$26,425
HYUNDAI Assurance
\$6,000 OFF

• Basic warranty: 60 months/60,000miles
• Roadside assistance coverage: 60months/unlimited distance
• Powertrain warranty: 120 months/100,000miles
• Corrosion perforation warranty: 84 months/ unlimited distance.

2017 Hyundai Veloster

ALL REMAINING!

\$16,415

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• Roadside assistance coverage: 60months/unlimited distance
• Powertrain warranty: 120 months/100,000miles
• Corrosion perforation warranty: 84 months/ unlimited distance.

2018 Hyundai Accent

\$15,090

Stock# 331915 MSRP \$20,090
HYUNDAI Assurance
\$5,000 OFF

• Basic warranty: 60 months/60,000miles
• Roadside assistance coverage: 60months/unlimited distance
• Powertrain warranty: 120 months/100,000miles
• Corrosion perforation warranty: 84 months/ unlimited distance.